

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 /070 W

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O R 191741Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5250

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20587

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, FR, US

SUBJECT: SAUVAGNARGUES TV STATEMENT ON US DESIRE TO
LEAVE BERLIN IN 1960'S

REF: A) BONN 19773; B) BONN 19591; C) BONN 19492;
D) PARIS 31694; E) USBERLIN 2464

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE SPRINGER PRESS SEEMS DETERMINED TO
KEEP ALIVE THE STORY OF SAUVAGNARGUES' REMARK CONCERNING
US READINESS TO PULL OUT OF BERLIN IN 1960-62. THE
CHIEF EDITOR OF "DIE WELT" IS SEEKING COMMENT FROM THE
AMBASSADOR. WE BELIEVE A WAY SHOULD BE FOUND FOR
PUTTING THE ISSUE TO REST AND WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION
TO COMMENT TO DIE WELT. REQUEST URGENT GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAD HOPED THAT INTEREST WOULD SOON DIE OUT IN
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THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER'S DECEMBER 1 REMARK ON

GERMAN TELEVISION THAT THE US HAD WANTED TO GET OUT OF BERLIN DURING THE YEARS 1960-62 AND THAT IT WAS DE GAULLE WHO HAD SAID IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE ALLEGATION IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED BY GERMANS, AND THE SPRINGER PRESS APPEARS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE STORY ALIVE ALTHOUGH WE HAD EARLIER REFUSED COMMENT (PARA 3, REFTTEL B).

2. THE CHIEF EDITOR OF DIE WELT HAS BEEN TRYING TO REACH THE AMBASSADOR BY PHONE TO POINT OUT, AS HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE, THAT DIE WELT PUBLISHED THE SAUVAGNARGUES STORY AND IS NOW WAITING FOR THE US COMMENT ON IT. FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO REFUSE COMMENT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REPORTED IN THE SPRINGER PRESS AS A TYPE OF CONFIRMATION. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT SOME SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT IS WARRANTED AND ASK THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO ANSWER DIE WELT'S QUESTION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

"WHILE NOT WISHING TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, OUR RECOLLECTION OF EVENTS DURING THE PERIOD IN QUESTION DIFFERS FROM THAT WHICH HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES. FOR EXAMPLE, AS THE RECORD SHOWS, THE US WAS IN FACT INCREASING ITS TROOP STRENGTH IN BERLIN AND IN EUROPE AT THAT TIME..

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST URGENT AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE A STATEMENT ALONG THE ABOVE LINES TO DIE WELT AND OTHER MEDIA WHO MAY INQUIRE. EVEN THOUGH THIS MAY NOT KILL THE STORY, IT SHOULD MAKE IT LESS EXPLOITABLE AND THUS LESS ATTRACTIVE TO THE SPRINGER PRESS.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, ALLEGATIONS
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Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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